

Message Text

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62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /081 W

----- 091798

R 081135Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9206

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: DETENTE FLOURISHING IN NDJAMENA

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO CHAD, ARKADI SOKOLOV, HAS OBVIOUSLY DECIDED TO SEEK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS STAFF AND THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY IN NDJAMENA. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN GOOD IF UNREMARKABLE IN RECENT PAST, REFLECTING PREVIOUS SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED APPROACH TO HIS JOB. SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, HOWEVER, SOKILOV HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN CHADIAN AND DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES, CALLING ON OFFICIALS AND PERSONALITIES (SUCH AS THE SOMEWHAT BEMUSED ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF NDJAMENA) WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD SELDOM SEEN THE SOVIET ENVOY, LET ALONE BEEN OBJECT OFFICIAL CALL.

2. SOKOLOV'S ATTITUDE TOWARD AMEMB CLIMAXED LAST WEEK WITH INVITATION AMEMB AND THREE EMBOFFS AND WIVES TO DINNER AT SOVIET RESIDENCE WITH SOVEMB STAFF. SOVEMB JUNIOR STAFF EXPRESSED OPEN SURPRISE AT ELABORATENESS OF FIVE COURSE DINNER

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WHICH FOLLOWED BY VERY WARM PREVIOUSLY PREPARED TOAST READ

IN ENGLISH BY SOKOLOV. TOAST STRESSED PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, HUMANITARIAN INTERESTS BOTH COUNTRIES, IN CHAD, AND URGED BOTH COUNTRIES AND EMBASSIES WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS. IN THIS CONNECTION, SOKOLOV NOTED THAT SOVIET AN-12 CARGO PLANE WHICH SINCE JANUARY HAS BEEN FLYING SOVIET GIFT RICE TO INTERIOR OF CHAD HAS ALSO THUS FAR FLOWN 150 TONS OF AMERICAN PL-480 SORGHUM TO FAYA LARGEAU IN NORTH OF COUNTRY. DINNER FOLLOWED BY STUDIOUSLY NON-POLITICAL FILMS AND INVITATION TO AMERICANS VISIT SMALL SOVIET CARGO PLANE, AN-26, WHICH BEING DEMONSTRATED NDJAMENA NEXT DAY. VISIT TO SOVIET AIRCRAFT NEXT MORNING WAS OCCASION ANOTHER RECEPTION FOR US AMB AND EMBOFFS IN AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE.

3. COMMENT: SOMEWHAT EXPANDED SOVEMB STAFF AND INAUGURATION SCHEDULED AEROFLOT WEEKLY SERVICE NDJAMENA (WHICH BRINGS IN 1,000 KILOS GOODS FOR EMB ACCORDING JUNIOR SOVIET EMBOFF) GIVE AMB SOKOLOV RATHER MORE TO WORK WITH THAN HIS PREDECESSOR HAD AVAILABLE. EMB CONSIDERS, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIET INITIATIVES TOWARDS AMEMB AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES MORE PRODUCT SOKILOV PERSONAL ENERGY AND CONVICTIONS THAN POLICY DIRECTIVE FROM MOSCOW. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER OTHER AFRICAN ADDRESSEES HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY WOOED BY SOVIET EMBASSY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DETENTE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NDJAME00540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750082-0268
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750370/aaaackpq.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTE FLOURISHING IN NDJAMENA
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, (SOKOLOV, ARKADI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006